

Michael Chekhov

Afternoon June 7, 1938

STYLE  
RHYTHMICAL WORK

## STYLE:

Spanish Evening:

Try to read the text, anticipating how it will sound in the first part of the rhythmical pattern. Try to get only the feeling that we are in the world of this first part. From this small rhythmical pattern will come a certain interpretation. The quality must be light, although oppressed, and the very beginning of the conflict must be there - all these elements are there. Oppressed joyful atmosphere of the group - they try to bring the light.

The scene between Florinda and Scaramouche. Florinda is the oppressor in this small scene, and Scaramouche the victim. He brings the light in this scene - therefore his fighting with obstacles must be more active than before, because the line of conflict is developing more strongly all the time.

The qualities are divided definitely between dark and light people and must not be confused. Not reasonable justification, but justification because of the whole...this is the most beautiful and fine thing on the stage. The young people are never dark, even when crying...their theme is light. Try taking the sentences in their right place, and then in the first part, and in the third part, or second part to experience the difference.

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The Pierrot scene - this is between the other two scenes. You must listen to this intangible melody which goes through the whole play and try to find the right place for each small scene. All possible nuances and intonations will come from this work. It is important to be able to hear these fine things, then later we will be able to do them. In this scene the young people must have light but still under the cloak of oppression. In the third part they are absolutely free without any muted notes. Everything is a victory for the young people.

Take the scene where Harlequin asks the group to "Build a square." Do the same exercises with words and movements. This scene comes in the early part of the first part. It will give a very charming effect if this gay, light scene takes place in the heaviest part of the depression. If taken primitively it would not be interesting, but taken in a subtle way it will be enchanting for the audience.

#### RHYTHMICAL WORK:

Such rhythmical kind of work implies that the group is already well-trained in the rhythmical things. We aren't yet sufficiently trained but we will grow and if you will know that this is the ideal we will grow more quickly. Therefore, concentrate on why we are doing these things. When we are able to work in this way it will bring in order not only our words but our emotions, our movements, our ability to feel the archetypal, our ability to grasp the whole thing. Everything

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we use in our acting profession will be brought into order, because of this work. It is an exercise for your actor's nature...to bring into order everything which we call the means of expression in our profession.